

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Andersen et al.
Serial Number: Unassigned
Filed: November 1, 2001
For: **FLOOR COVERING WITH BORDERS
AND METHOD FOR MAKING SAME**
Group Art Unit: Unknown
Examiner: Unknown

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully submits a Preliminary Amendment in connection with the U.S. Patent Application submitted concurrently herewith. This application is based upon an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) numbered PCT/GB00/01512 which has a priority application filed in Great Britain numbered 99/10023.2 filed on May 1, 1999, for the invention entitled "Floor Covering with Borders and Method of Making Same." Applicant requests that the following Preliminary Amendment be entered before examination of the above-referenced application.

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-18.

Please enter the following Claims.

19. A mat comprising a pile surface fabric and a rubber or rubber-like backing material connected to the pile surface fabric, wherein both the pile surface fabric and the backing material extend to the edge of the mat, and wherein the pile surface fabric is provided with a visually distinctive border portion that contrasts with the remainder of the pile surface fabric and that extends along at least a portion of the edge of the pile surface fabric.
20. The mat according to Claim 19, wherein the border portion of the pile surface fabric extends along the entire perimeter of the pile surface fabric.
21. The mat according to Claim 19, wherein the edge of the mat comprises a cut edge, whereby the cut edge is the result of a single cutting operation through the pile surface fabric and the backing material.

when the elongate areas are sculpted or carved, by physically sensing the change in height of the pile surface fabric.

32. The method according to Claim 30, wherein the method also includes the step of using an electronic control means to guide a cutting means to cut through the pile surface fabric and backing material along a cutting line having a predefined position with respect to the position of the elongate area.
33. The method according to Claim 31, wherein the method also includes the step of using an electronic control means to guide a cutting means to cut through the pile surface fabric and backing material along a cutting line having a predefined position with respect to the position of the elongate area.
34. A method according to Claim 26, wherein the elongate, visually distinctive areas are areas of contrasting surface colour, the areas of contrasting surface colour being achieved by a method step selected from the group consisting of:
dyeing the pile surface fabric;
forming the pile surface fabric with areas which comprise pre-dyed yarns;
selectively applying heat on the pile surface fabric, wherein the pile surface fabric comprises a blend of fibres of polymers having different melting points;
selectively applying chemicals containing a liquid repellent on the pile surface fabric, wherein the pile surface fabric is rewetted by the application of liquid and subjected to heat treatment to carve the areas to which the liquid was applied; and
selectively applying chemicals to carve the upper surface of the pile surface fabric and reveal a lower portion of the pile surface fabric having a contrasting colour to the colour of the fibres at the upper surface of the pile fabric.
35. The method according to Claim 26, wherein the elongate, visually distinctive areas are areas of contrasting surface texture, the areas of contrasting texture being achieved by the step of selectively carving areas of the pile surface fabric.
36. The method according to Claim 35, wherein the carving is carried out by a process selected from the group consisting of acid carving, mechanical carving and shearing.
37. The method according to Claim 36, wherein the carving is carried out by applying a degrading agent to the pile fibres in the area to be carved, heating the pile fabric to cause degradation of the pile fibres, and mechanically removing the degraded fibres.
38. The method according to Claim 36, wherein the carving is carried out by the step of selective application of chemicals containing a liquid repellent on the pile surface fabric, wherein the fabric is subsequently rewetted by the application of liquid and subjected to heat treatment to carve the areas to which liquid repellent has been applied.

when the elongate areas are of distinctive heights, by physically sensing the distinction in height.

32. The method according to Claim 30, wherein the method also includes the step of using an electronic control means to guide a cutting means to cut through the pile surface fabric and backing material along a cutting line having a predefined position with respect to the position of the elongate area.
33. The method according to Claim 31, wherein the method also includes the step of using an electronic control means to guide a cutting means to cut through the pile surface fabric and backing material along a cutting line having a predefined position with respect to the position of the elongate area.
34. A method according to Claim 26, wherein the elongate, visually distinctive areas are areas of contrasting surface colour, the areas of contrasting surface colour being achieved by a method step selected from the group consisting of:
 - dyeing the pile surface fabric;
 - forming the pile surface fabric with areas which comprise pre-dyed yarns;
 - selectively applying heat on the pile surface fabric, wherein the pile surface fabric comprises a blend of fibres of polymers having different melting points;
 - selectively applying chemicals containing a liquid repellent on the pile surface fabric, wherein the pile surface fabric is rewetted by the application of liquid and subjected to heat treatment to carve the areas to which the liquid was applied; and
 - selectively applying chemicals to carve the upper surface of the pile surface fabric and reveal a lower portion of the pile surface fabric having a contrasting colour to the colour of the fibres at the upper surface of the pile fabric.
35. The method according to Claim 26, wherein the elongate, visually distinctive areas are areas of contrasting surface texture, the areas of contrasting texture being achieved by the step of selectively carving areas of the pile surface fabric.
36. The method according to Claim 35, wherein the carving is carried out by a process selected from the group consisting of acid carving, mechanical carving and shearing.
37. The method according to Claim 35, wherein the carving is carried out by applying a degrading agent to the pile fibres in the area to be carved, heating the pile fabric to cause degradation of the pile fibres, and mechanically removing the degraded fibres.
38. The method according to Claim 35, wherein the carving is carried out by the step of selective application of chemicals containing a liquid repellent on the pile surface fabric, wherein the fabric is subsequently rewetted by the application of liquid and subjected to heat treatment to carve the areas to which liquid repellent has been applied.

Applicant believes the entry of this Preliminary Amendment will no raise issues with respect to new matter.

November 1, 2001

Sincerely,



Charlotte C. Wilson

Patent Agent

Registration No. 45,224

Express Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence, and all correspondence referenced herein, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an Express Mail envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231" with sufficient postage on the following listed below:

Date: November 1, 2001

Signature: Christi J. Roddy

Name: Christi J. Roddy